

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 June 2005 (23.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/057948 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04Q 1/14**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2004/052762

(22) International Filing Date:
10 December 2004 (10.12.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0303332-1 11 December 2003 (11.12.2003) SE

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

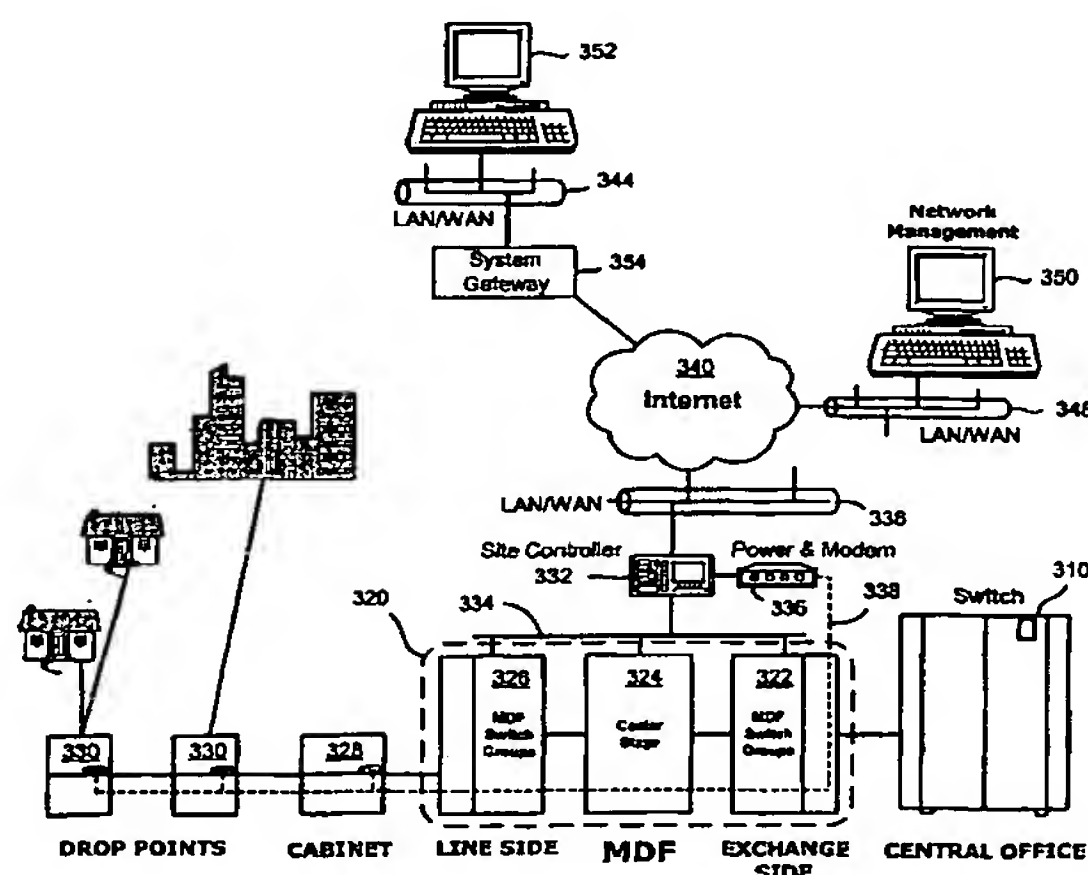
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REMOTELY AUTOMATING CROSS-CONNECTS IN TELECOM NETWORKS



(57) Abstract: A method and system for automating cross-connects for a telecommunication system comprising a network of communication lines for connecting subscriber locations to a central office exchange 112. The communication lines extend to the subscriber locations from a main distribution frame (MDF) (320) in which a plurality of standard termination blocks are housed in the MDF for terminating the lines from to the subscriber side and lines from the exchange side, which are cross-connected in the prior art with jumper wires. In an embodiment of the invention, the cross-connects are mounted on modular cross-connect boards having mechanical switching means that are inserted into or connected to the termination blocks. Automation is achieved by selectively controlling the connection state of the cross-connects via a computer terminal (350,352) located remotely from the MDF. The system is scalable to the growth in subscriber lines within the MDF by installing additional cross-connect boards. A further embodiment includes automation of street cabinets (328) and drop point sites (330) containing cross-connect boards of the present invention.

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